AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1.-76. (Canceled)

77. (New) A method of screening for a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance, which comprises the following steps (a) to (d):

(a) a step for providing an isolated somatic cell comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT2 gene, wherein the ECAT2 gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or 7,

(b) a step for bringing into contact a test substance with the somatic cell of the aforementioned step (a),

(c) a step following the aforementioned step (b), for detecting the presence or absence of the emergence of cells expressing the marker gene, and

(d) a step for selecting a test substance that allows the emergence of the cells as a candidate somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance.

78. (New) The screening method of claim 77, wherein the ECAT2 gene is an endogenous ECAT2 gene, and wherein the somatic cell is a mouse cell.

79. (New) The screening method of claim 77, wherein the ECAT2 gene is an exogenous ECAT2 gene.

80. (New) The screening method of claim 77, wherein the somatic cell homozygously comprises the marker gene.

81. (New) The screening method of claim 77, wherein the marker gene is a drug resistance gene, a fluorescent protein gene, a luminescent enzyme gene, a chromogenic enzyme gene, or a gene comprising a combination thereof.

82. (New) A method of screening for a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance, which comprises the following steps (a) to (d):

(a) a step for providing an isolated somatic cell comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT3 gene,

(b) a step for bringing into contact a test substance with the somatic cell of the aforementioned step (a),

(c) a step following the aforementioned step (b), for detecting the presence or absence of the emergence of cells expressing the marker gene, and

(d) a step for selecting a test substance that allows the emergence of the cells as a candidate somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance.

83. (New) The screening method of claim 82, wherein the ECAT3 gene is an endogenous ECAT3 gene, and wherein the somatic cell is a mouse cell.

84. (New) The screening method of claim 82, wherein the ECAT3 gene is an exogenous ECAT3 gene.

85. (New) The screening method of claim 82, wherein the somatic cell homozygously comprises the marker gene.

86. (New) The screening method of claim 82, wherein the marker gene is a drug resistance gene, a fluorescent protein gene, a luminescent enzyme gene, a chromogenic enzyme gene, or a gene comprising a combination thereof.

87. (New) A method of screening for a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance, which comprises the following steps (a) to (d):

(a) a step for providing an isolated somatic cell comprising (i) a first marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT2 gene, wherein the ECAT2 gene comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5 or 7, and (ii) a second marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT3 gene, wherein the first marker gene is different from the second marker gene,

(b) a step for bringing into contact a test substance with the somatic cell of the aforementioned step (a),

(c) a step following the aforementioned step (b), for detecting the presence or absence of the emergence of cells expressing the marker genes, and

(d) a step for selecting a test substance that allows the emergence of the cells as a candidate somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance.

88. (New) The screening method of claim 87, wherein the ECAT2 is an endogenous gene and/or the ECAT3 gene is an endogenous gene, and wherein the somatic cell is a mouse cell.

89. (New) The screening method of claim 87, wherein the ECAT2 and ECAT3 genes are exogenous genes.

90. (New) The screening method of claim 87, wherein the somatic cell homozygously comprises the marker gene.

91. (New) The screening method of claim 87, wherein each of the first and second marker genes is a drug resistance gene, a fluorescent protein gene, a luminescent enzyme gene, a chromogenic enzyme gene, or a gene comprising a combination thereof.